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(BIZ BRIEFS) Posts Dividend. Three Stock Dividends. Task Force Chairs. Patent Case. New Loans. Profit-Sharing The Union Leader (Manchester, NH) December 15, 1995 Friday

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SECTION: BUSINESS**LENGTH:** 1156 words**HEADLINE:** (BIZ BRIEFS) Posts Dividend. Three Stock Dividends. Task Force Chairs. Patent Case. New Loans. Profit-Sharing**BODY:**

KEENE - Granite State Bankshares Inc. today announced that the board of directors has declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$.12 per share of common stock outstanding, payable Jan. 5, 1996, to stockholders of record Dec. 22, 1995.

Granite State Bankshares Inc. is the parent company for Granite Bank, a New Hampshire state-chartered commercial bank with offices located in Keene, Chesterfield, Peterborough, Milford, Amherst, Durham and Portsmouth.

Three Stock Dividends.

KEENE - The board of directors of CFX Corp. has increased the company's regular quarterly cash dividend from \$.16 per share to \$.18 per share, declared a special cash dividend of \$.18 per share, and declared a 5 percent common stock dividend. All three dividends are payable Jan. 19, 1996, to shareholders of record on Dec. 22, 1995.

Peter J. Baxter, president and CEO of CFX, said, "In increasing the regular cash dividend and declaring the special cash dividend, along with declaring the 5 percent stock dividend, the board of directors considered factors including the company's strong financial condition, the continuation of the company's strategy in leveraging its capital position, and our commitment to increase shareholder value."

Task Force Chairs.

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Bill Zeliff, R-N.H., has named Jeff Pollock and Jay Brooks as co-chairs of his New Hampshire Small Business Task Force in addition to naming a seven-member steering committee.

Pollock is president of New Hampshire Business Development Corp. of Manchester, and Brooks is president of Poly Vac of Manchester. The task force will make recommendations on ways to strengthen the American small business sector.

"Small business is the engine of our economy," insisted Zeliff. "With hands-on experience in this arena, the Task Force will help me chart a path of common sense reform on taxes and excessive regulation. With Task Force help and advice, we can expand the economy, create new jobs, and make the federal government business-friendly."

New Hampshire Small Business Task Force Steering Committee members are: Doris Ballard, Ballard's Novelty & Party Superstores of Portsmouth and Concord; Richard A. Charpentier, Berry, Dunn McNeil and Parker of Manchester; Peter Gardner, vice president of First **NH** Bank; Elizabeth Lamoureux, director of the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center in Durham; Tracy McGrail, executive director of the Exeter Chamber of Commerce; Rich Madden, Blake Restaurants of Merrimack; Michael Parda, the Director of Economic Development for the City of Somersworth.

Patent Case.

HAMPSTEAD - The United States District Court has ruled in favor of **Johnson & Johnston Associates Inc., 130 Route 111, Hampstead**, in a longstanding patent infringement lawsuit against the R.E. Service Company (RES) of Santa Clara, Calif.

The U.S. District Court ruling in California upheld JJA's patent for Copper-Aluminum-Copper (CAC) Lamination Foil - a key material used in the manufacture of printed circuit boards - and ordered RES to cease manufacturing and selling its AC2 and AC3 products.

As part of the ruling, RES and its president, Mark Frater, acknowledged that JJA's patent is valid and enforceable and that all product that RES has made and sold under the name AC2 and AC3 since the issuance of JJA's patent in 1992 infringes that patent. The financial terms of the ruling are undisclosed.

New Loans.

New Hampshire Business Development Corp., Manchester, has announced a new loan program to help the state's small business owners and entrepreneurs sell their products abroad. The Export Working Capital Program provides SBA-backed credit dollars in the form of short-term notes ranging in size from \$ 100,000 to \$ 750,000. These funds furnish companies with the short-term capital they need to fulfill international manufacturing or service contracts.

According to SBA District Director Bill Phillips, "NHBDC has taken a lead position in offering this unique loan program to small businesses in the Granite State. These loan funds are invaluable to small, often undercapitalized companies, anxious and ready to tap international markets."

"The Export Working Capital Program is but one of the many ways in which NHBDC

complements the banking industry in the state," NHBDC President Jeffrey M. Pollock said. Indeed, this loan product is specifically designed to supplement traditional lending arrangements without interfering with existing banking relationships.

New Hampshire Business Development Corp. is a unique for-profit corporation chartered by the State of New Hampshire to finance and promote the economic development of the state's small business community. As an SBA Certified Lender, NHBDC provides SBA-backed credit dollars to Granite State businesses for working capital, equipment purchases, commercial mortgages and refinancing. In addition, the corporation oversees the newly formed New Hampshire Capital Consortium, a Small Business Investment Company affiliate, organized to provide New Hampshire's entrepreneurs with venture capital.

Inquiries regarding the Export Working Capital Program, as well as other NHBDC loan products and services, can be directed to Dede Dufresne at 623-5500.

Profit-Sharing

Associates at the L.W. Packard Co. in Ashland recently received \$ 298,000 in profit-sharing. This is the fourth consecutive year in which the company has made profit-sharing distributions to its workers. The \$ 298,000 was shared among 240 individuals working at the company's manufacturing facility in Ashland.

Since its introduction in 1989, L.W. Packard Profit-Sharing Plan has awarded \$ 3,000,000 to its workforce in the form of earnings generated from the distribution of profits.

John Glidden, president, credited the company's success over the years to the combined efforts of all employees throughout the organization working together to achieve a common goal. Additionally, he said that the company's strategy of reinvesting profits in innovative technology has been a winning formula for success since the inception of the company in 1916. Glidden emphasized that L.W. Packard has a worldwide reputation for providing its customers with a high quality product, sold at a competitive price, and delivered on time. All facets of the operation focus on customer satisfaction, which, according to Glidden is the "name of the game."

L.W. Packard has been in continuous operation in Ashland for 79 years. It manufactures woolen, cashmere, camel hair and angora fabric for the apparel trade. Its 300,000-square-foot facility is home to a vast array of advanced manufacturing equipment and processes.

In February of this year L.W. Packard was recognized by Textile World Magazine as one of the Top 10 Textile Companies. It is the 27th largest privately held company in New Hampshire.

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